



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT**

**TESTIMONY OF
ROBERT L. GENUARIO
SECRETARY
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
Before The Appropriations, Human Services and Public Health Committees**

September 15, 2009

FFY 2010 ALLOCATION PLANS FOR FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS

Good afternoon Senators Harp, Doyle, Harris, Debicella, and Kane, Representatives Geragosian, Walker, Ritter, Miner, Gibbons, and Giegler, and distinguished members of the Appropriations, Human Services, and Public Health Committees. I am Robert Genuario, Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, and I am before you today on behalf of Governor Rell to request your approval of the federal fiscal year 2010 federal block grant allocation plans.

Before you this afternoon are allocation plans for the Social Services (SSBG), Community Services (CSBG), Community Mental Health Services (CMHS), Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT), Maternal and Child Health (MCH), and Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grants. Together, these six block grants represent over \$55 million in federal funding for Connecticut. Later this afternoon in a separate hearing, you will be considering a seventh block grant allocation plan for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

As always, we cannot be certain of the funding level until Congress acts on the federal budget. Proposed funding levels are presently available to us from the President's budget, the House budget, and the Senate Appropriations committee budget. Based on congressional action to-date, our best indications from the federal government are that allocations to Connecticut for the six block grants will be level funded. It is important to note that all of the allocation plans contain contingency plans in case more or less funding is awarded to Connecticut.

The allocation plans you have before you today are substantially similar to those you approved last year. Five of the six block grants will have slightly lower expenditures in FY10 due to declining carry forward funds and we are proposing minor changes in response. Although there will be no significant reduction in service this year, declining carry forward funds will continue to be a concern in the coming years as these block grant allocation plans continue to expend more than the annual award. In the absence of increases in federal block grant amounts, next year's allocation plans for these block grants may need to include programmatic reductions due both to declining availability of carry forward funds and increasing costs. The sixth block grant – CSBG – had slightly higher carry forward into this year and will therefore expend more in FY10 than in FY09. The CSBG also benefited from a \$12 million ARRA allocation which you approved in May.

Commissioner Kirk, Deputy Commissioner McIntosh, Deputy Commissioner Gyle, and Deputy Commissioner Beaulieu will follow me with more specific information on each of the block grant allocation plans. I urge your support of the six block grant allocation plans and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.